THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer under price, distribution and movement controls of the Government. Against the Essential commodities Act (ECA) allocations of 26.77 Lakh Metric Tonnes for Rabi '95-96' to U.P., 9.22 Lakh Metric Tonnes have been made available to the State upto November '95. The availability was adequate to support sales, which were 5.42 Lakh Metric Tonnes during this period.

The responsibility for districtwise distribution of urea is vested with the State Governments. During November '95, however, the Government of U.P. had requested for additional supplies specifically to the Eastern Districts of the State. Accordingly, arrangements were made to rush supplies to these Districts from various sources on a preferential basis.

There have been no complaints, about availability of other major fertilizers namely Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Muriate of Potash (MOP), which are decontroled.

Illegal Mining in Orissa

2705. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal mining of precious stones in Orissa;

(b) if so, the areas in which illegal mining is going on;

(c) the steps taken to curb such illegal mining; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANAG): (a) to (d) Mining operations in any area can be taken only in accordance with the terms and conditions of a mining lease duly granted under the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. The State Governments are empowered under section 21 of the said Act to punish a person who undertakes mining operations in contravention of the provisions of the said Act of 1957. The Central Government does not compile statistics on the actions taken by the State Governments to prevent illegal exploitation of minerals as such.

As per information furnished by the Government of Orissa, the State Legislature has also enacted an Act called 'Orissa Minerals (Prevention of theft, smuggling and other un-lawful Activities) Act 1989'. This Act enables the designated Officers of the State Govt. including police to search any permises and seize precious and semi-precious stones obtained illegally. The offences under this Act has been made cognigable.

Shortage of staff in National backward classes finance and development corporation

2706. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of an acute shortage of staff in the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the proposals for creation of posts submitted by the said Corporation during the last two years;

(c) the details of the action taken; if any, on each of those proposals;

(d) the specific reasons for not clearing each of the remaining proposals and by when these are proposed to be cleared; and

(e) whether Government propose to initiate action against the officials who had kept those proposals pending for such a long time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) Two proposals for creation of posts have been submitted by NBCEDC during the last two years..

(c) to (e) In each of one proposal certain clarifications had been called for from the corporation, which have been received and the matter is under active consideration.

In case of another proposal, certain clarifications have been called for from the corporation and their reply is still awaited.

कोलार खानों में उच्च प्रौद्योगिकी का आरम्भ किया जाना

2707. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 4 दिसम्बर, 1995 के "बिजनेस स्टैंडर्ड" में "हाई टेक्नालाजी प्रोपोस्ड टु बि इन्ट्रोड्यूस्ड इन कोलार माइन्स" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने लाभार्जन कर रही खानों में खनन कार्य हेतु उच्च प्रौद्योगिकी का इस्तेमाल करने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने सरकारी क्षेत्र की सभी खानों का सर्वेक्षण कराया है;

(घ) सरकारी क्षेत्र के अंतर्गत कुल कितनी खानें हैं और कितनी खाने घाटा होने के कारण बंद पड़ी हैं; और

(ङ) सरकार ने उन इकाइयों को लाभप्रद बनाने के लिये कुल कितनी खानों में उच्च प्रौद्योगिकी का प्रयोग करने का निर्णय लिया है?

खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गमंग): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) और (ङ) नई खनिज नीति 1993 में साथ-साथ खनिज उद्योग द्वारा नवीनतम प्रौद्योगिकी अपनाने पर जोर दिया गया है।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) खान मंत्रालय के प्रशासनिक नियंत्रण में सरकारी क्षेत्र के पांच उपक्रम—1. नेशनल एल्यूमिनियम कंपनी लि० (नाल्को), 2. भारत एल्यूमिनियम कंपनी लि० (बाल्को), 3. हिन्दुस्तान जिंक लिमिटेड (एचजैडएल), 4. हिन्दुस्तान कापर लिमिटेड (एचसीएल), 5. भारत गोल्ड माइंस लिमिटेड (बीजीएमएल) की कैप्टिव खानें हैं। वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान बीजीएमएल को छोड़कर अन्य उपक्रमों ने लाभ दर्शाया है।

Welfare schemes for weaker sections living below poverty-line in Punjab

2708. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the welfare schemes introduced by the Central Government in the country particularly in the State of Punjab for the weaker sections living below poverty-line;

(b) *the details thereof; and*

(c) the effective measures Government propose to prepare a National Action-Plan for removing the poverty of the people during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has been implementing several Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the welfare of weaker sections living below poverty-line in the State of Punjab. The details of the welfare schemes are as follow:—

1. Special Central Assistance to the special Component Plan of Scheduled Castes.
2. Scheduled Caste Development Corporation.
3. National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Seavengers.
4. National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation.
5. Pre-Examination Coaching Scheme for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria.
6. National Minorities Development and Financed Corporation—For the promotion of self-employment ventures among backward sections of the minorities.
7. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana